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I Claim:

- ~~1. A method for providing bed availability information on a computer network, the method comprising the steps of:~~

~~providing a database;~~

inputting, bed availability information for a plurality of healthcare facilities having beds; and

providing a first access to the database for finding the bed availability information by a user of the database.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of;

providing the database on the network wherein access to the database is via the network.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the network is the internet.

4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

contacting one of the healthcare facilities after retrieving information about the healthcare facility.

5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

providing a remote server; and

storing the database on the remote server.

6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

providing a second access to the database wherein an extended care or a healthcare facility having beds enters the bed availability information into the database via the second access.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein an individual healthcare facility accesses the database to input the bed availability information for the individual

healthcare facility.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the bed availability information includes a quantity of empty beds available.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein the bed availability information includes types of empty beds available.

10. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

providing an internet-enabled form on a website for accessing the remote database and inputting information into the database.

11. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

searching the database for the bed availability information; and

matching healthcare facility criteria with patient needs.

12. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

entering individual information related to a medical condition of a patient; and

searching the database based on the individual information for the bed availability information.

13. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

providing a search engine for searching the database.

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~~14. A system for storing and accessing bed availability information for a plurality of healthcare facilities, the system comprising:~~

~~a computer network;~~

~~a database associated with the network;~~

~~means for inputting bed availability information of a plurality of healthcare facilities into the database;~~

~~and means for accessing the bed availability information and retrieving the bed availability information from the database.~~

16. The system of Claim 14 wherein the bed availability information includes types of beds available.

18. The system of Claim 14 further comprising:  
a remote server wherein the database is contained  
on the remote server; and  
a website providing access to the database.

19. The system of Claim 14 further comprising:  
means for accessing the database wherein an  
individual healthcare facility enters the bed  
availability into the database.

20. The system of Claim 14 further comprising:  
means for searching the database for the bed  
availability information of healthcare facilities.